

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1168

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: RO US UNGA PARM OEXC OSCIT GEN TECH
SUBJ: U.S.-ROMANIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS: MEETING WITH ACTING
FOREIGN MINISTER GLIGA

1. SUMMARY: DURING 95-MINUTE MEETING WITH ACTING FONMIN
GLIGA FEBRUARY 23, AMBASSADOR AND EUR/EE DIRECTOR ANDREWS
DISCUSSED MID-TERM REVIEW TALKS ON CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC
EXCHANGES, CEAUSESCU VISIT TO U.S., BILATERAL POLITICAL CON-
SULTATIONS AND MFN REVIEW. NOTING MFA HAD RAISED EXCHANGES
PROBLEMS AT HIGHER LEVEL, GLIGA SAID THERE IS CLEAR MANDATE
TO OVERCOME THEM AND MOVE AHEAD, ALTHOUGH WE MAY NOT YET BE
OUT OF WOODS ON SCIENCE SIDE. WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS OVERALL
FOCUSED ON CEAUSESCU VISIT, HE EXPRESSED HOPE U.S. COULD AGREE
TO JOINT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE;
ANDREWS SAID DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE DRAFTS. GLIGA
NOTED HE MIGHT LEAD GOR DEL TO UNSSOD CONSULTATIONS HIMSELF
IF MACOVESCU'S HEALTH PERMITS, AND THIS WOULD ALLOW HIM TO
CONSULT IN DEPARTMENT IN PROPOSED JOINT DECLARATIONS
AND OTHER ASPECTS OF VISIT. END SUMMARY.

2. FEBRUARY 23 TOUR D'HORIZON ON BILATERAL RELATIONS
BETWEEN ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER VASILE GLIGA, AMBASSADOR
AND EUR/EE DIRECTOR ANDREWS COVERED MID-TERM REVIEW TALKS ON
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CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES, CEAUSESCU VISIT TO U.S., BILATERAL
POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS AND MFN REVIEW. GLIGA WAS
ACCOMPANIED BY MFA DIRECTORATE IIK CHIEF IULIU DOBROIU
AND U.S. DESK OFFICER BORIS RANGHET.

3. ANDREWS NOTED IMPORTANCE AND USEFULNESS OF BILATERAL
MID-TERM TALKS ON EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC

RELATIONS AND HIS SATISFACTION WITH CONTACTS HE HAD HAD WITH GLIGA AND OTHERS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE REGRETTED NUMBER OF TECHNICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS WHICH STILL SLOW DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COOPERATION, AND EXPRESSED HOPE WE COULD RAPIDLY SOLVE THEM SO AS TO CONCENTRATE ON SUBSTANCE.

4. CONCERNING BILATERAL RELATIONS IN GENERAL, ANDREWS FELT WE HAD REACHED POINT WHERE REAL ACHIEVEMENTS AS WELL AS AREAS WHICH REQUIRED MORE WORK WERE BOTH CLEARLY EVIDENT. OUR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WERE ADVANCING DESPITE FACT THAT USG DID NOT CONTROL BUT RATHER ENCOURAGED, ADVISED AND SUPPORTED PRIVATE TRADE AND INVESTMENT EFFORTS. OUR CONSULTATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST, PREPARATIONS FOR UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT AND CSCE IN BELGRADE CONTEXT WERE FERTILE AND FRUITFUL. ANDREWS ASKED FOR GLIGA'S ESTIMATE 5. INDICATING HIS SATISFACTION WITH TALKS AND PLEASURE IN RECEIVING ANDREWS AT TIME GOR IS PREPARING FOR CEAUSESCU VISIT, GLIGA UNDERSCORED GOR'S FIRM DECISION TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP ROMANIA'S EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES WITH U.S. HE SAID MINISTRY HAD RAISED PROBLEM AT HIGHER LEVEL AND GOTTEN CLEAR REALISTIC AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE. GOR'S PAST SHORTCOMINGS STEMMED FROM REORGANIZATION OF SOME GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, WHICH LEFT THEM ILL EQUIPPED TO MATCH WESTERN, AND ESPECIALLY U.S. EFFORTS. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS HIS STRICTLY PERSONAL OPINION THAT
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ALL PROBLEMS IN AREA OF SCIENTIFIC REORGANIZATION HAD NOT YET BEEN SURMOUNTED, BUT ASSURED THAT THEY WERE WELL ON WAY TO RESOLUTION.

6. ON U.S.-ROMANIAN RELATIONS IN GENERAL, GLIGA SAID THEY WERE GOOD, AND MAIN FOCUS WAS CEAUSESCU'S FORTHCOMING TRIP. VISIT WOULD TAKE OUR COOPERATION TO NEW LEVEL AND IMPROVE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH WE CAN WORK OUT VARIOUS PROBLEMS. GLIGA SAID GOR WAS WORKING ON ITS IDEAS FOR TWO DOCUMENTS IT HOPED USG WOULD AGREE TO: JOINT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE. ANDREWS SAID DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE DRAFT. HE NOTED PUNGAN HAD RAISED ISSUE DURING HIS VISIT, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER U.S. WOULD WISH MORE THAN ONE STATEMENT.

7. GLIGA REITERATED STANDARD GOR CONCERNS ABOUT EXCESSES OF ANTI-REGIME TESTIMONY DURING MFN HEARINGS AND DESIRE FOR LONGER REVIEW PERIOD. ANDREWS SAID DEPARTMENT AND CONGRESS WERE AWARE OF GOR CONCERNS, AND THERE WAS POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING COMBINED HEARINGS ON ANNUAL WAIVER AND TRADE AGREEMENT EXTENSION IN SENATE AND HOUSE. IN REGARD TO NON-GERMANE TESTIMONY BY WITNESSES, ANDREWS STRESSED

THAT IT WAS NOT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DENY A WITNESS
RIGHT TO EXPRESS HIS VIEWS OR TO GET THEM PUBLISHED.

8. GLIGA SAID GOR WAS READY TO CONSULT ON ALL PROBLEMS
THAT INTERESTED THE TWO PARTIES. OF MOST IMMEDIATE INTEREST
WERE FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS ON DISARMAMENT. HE DID NOT
KNOW WHO WOULD LEAD ROMANIAN SIDE. HE MIGHT BE CHOSEN
IF FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU'S RECOVERY FROM CURRENT
ILLNESS LET HIM RETURN TO OFFICE IN TIME. IF SO, THIS
WOULD BE OCCASION FOR HIM TO MEET WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS
ON PROPOSED JOINT DECLARATION AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF CEAUSESCU
VISIT.

9. GLIGA'S COMMENTS ON BALKAN REGIONAL COOPERATION ARE
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